

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 167582

FOLLOWING REPEATS PRETORIA 2925 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAPE TOWN
DURBAN GENEVA JOHANNESBURG LONDON PARIS USUN NEW YORK 1
JUL 76

QUOTE UNCLAS PRETORIA 2925

E.O. 11653: N/A

TAGS: SF PINS

SUBJECT: SOWETO AFTERMATH

DEPT PASS ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

1. ALTHOUGH POLICE ARE SOMEWHAT MORE IN EVIDENCE THAN
NORMAL, GENERAL SITUATION IN PRETORIA AND JOHANNESBURG
AREA APPEARS TO BE RETURNING TO NORMAL. NUMBER OF SOWETO
BLACKS HAVE APPEARED AT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS IN LAST DAY OR
TWO, MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS SEEM LARGELY RESTORED AND
FUNCTIONING EXCEPT FOR SHORTAGE OF BUSES AS CONSEQUENCE
DESTRUCTION OF SOME DURING RIOTS, AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS
CONTACTED REPORT WORK Foyes HAVE REMAINED AT NORMAL
STRENGTH.

2. REFLECTING SAG DETERMINATION TO AVOID OCCASSION FOR
NEW DETERIORATION OF PUBLIC ORDER, MINISTER JUSTICE
ZRUGER HAS DENIED APPLICATION FOR MASS FUNERAL FOR THOSE
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WHO DIED IN SOWETO RIOTING. BLACK PARENTS ASSOCIATION

HAD APPLIED TO MAGISTRATE OF JOHANNESBURG, WHO REFERRED MATTER TO MIN JUSTICE.

3. OPERATIVE PARTS OF KURGER STATEMENT AS QUOTED BY RAND DAILY MAIL JULY 1:

"IT APPEARS THAT KNOWN BLACK POWER ORGANIZATIONS ARE AFFILIATED TO THE BLACK PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AND THAT WELL-KNOWN POLITICAL AGITATORS ARE ACTIVELY CONCERNED WITH THIS ORGANISATION AND INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING OF THE MASS BURIAL.

"THIS, AS WELL AS THE MANNER IN WHICH THE BURIAL IS TO BE HELD, SHOW IN MY VIEW THAT THIS IS AN EXERCISE IN POLITICAL AGITATION AND NOT AN EFFORT TO ASSIST THE BEREAVED WITH THE LAYING TO REST OF THEIR NEXT OF KIN.

"IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SUCH AN OCCURENCE CAN QUITE POSSIBLY LEAD TO RENEWED RIOTING AND EVEN TO VIOLENCE. FURTHERMORE, NO EVIDENCE WAS SUBMITTED THAT THE ORGANISATION CONCERNED HAS ANY MANDATE FROM THE NEXT OF KIN TO ARRANGE THE BURIAL ON THEIR BEHALF OR EVEN KNOWS WHO ALL THE DECEASED AND NEXT OF KIN ARE.

"THE BODIES OF THE DECEASED CAN THEREFORE NOT BE HANDED OVER TO THE ORGANIZATION.

"IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I HAVE REFUSED THE APPLICATIONS.

"THE NEXT OF KIN ARE INVITED TO COME FORWARD TO IDENTIFY AND CLAIM THE BODIES OF THE DECEASED AND TO ARRANGE BURIALS IN THE USUAL WAY AND IN THE AREAS WHERE THE DECEASED LIVED. NO PPLITICAL SPEECHES WILL BE ALLOWED AT SUCH BURIALS.

"IT IS A GIVEN AIM OF THE BLACK PARENTS' ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NEXT OF KIN CONCERNED. THIS THE ORGANISATION, OR ANYBODY ELSE, CAN OF COURSE DO. IN FACT, THE STATE AS WELL AS THE WEST UNCLASSIFIED

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RAND BANTO AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION BOARD ITSELF, ASSISTS INDIGENTS IN SUCH CASES."

4. PRESS REPORTS THAT M T MOERAP, PRESIDENT OF ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ADVANCE OF AFRICANS, LED DELEGATION OF BLACK LEADERS INCLUDING SOWETO MAYOR T J MAKHAYA TO PRESENT A MEMORANDUM SIGNED BY 36 LEADERS FROM SOWETO AND NEIGHBORING WEST RAND TOWNSHIPS TO

SECRETARY FOR BANTU ADMINISTRATION I P VAN ONSELEN.
RAND DAILY MAIL JULY 1 SAYS MEMORANDUM PROPOSED EXPANSION
OF POWERS OF URBAN BANTU COUNCIL AS PRELIMINARY STEP
TOWARD PREPRESENTATION IN PROVINCIAL COUNCILS AND ULTIMATELY
IN PARLIAMENT. PLAN IS DESCRIBED AS UNEQUIVOCAL REJECTION
OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. MOERANE REPORTEDLY WARNED THAT
UNLESS POSITIVE STEPS TAKEN IN THIS DIRECTION, SOUTH
AFRICA WOULD DRIFT TOWARD CONFRONTATION THAT WOULD MAKE
CURRENT UNREST LOOK LIKE "SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC" BY COM-
PARISON. HE WARNED THAT YOUNG AFRICANS SEE THEIR POSITION
AS BEING A RESULT OF "SHEER CONQUEST" AND FEEL THAT A COUNTER
ASSAULT IS THE ONLY WAY OUT. SAYING THAT A GREAT MANY
ISSUES INCLUDING WAGE GAP, INVLUX CONTROL, TRADE UNION
RIGHTS, AND HOMELAND CITIZENSHIP HAD BEEN DISCUSSED DURING
THE MEETING, MOERANE STRESSED THAT POLITICAL RIGHTS WERE
THE PRIORITY." WE WOULD BE ASSURED A PROPORTIONATELY
REASONABLE SHARE OF THE LAND AND ITS RESOURCES...WE
BELIEVE THAT THROUGH SINGER DIALOGUE AND SERIOUS MUTUAL
CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSION, A WAY CAN BE FOUND OAT WILL
ASSURE THAT OUR PEOPLE CAN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE
THEIR CONTRIBUTION IN DECISION MAKING AND ADMINISTRATION
OR OUR COUNTRY "MOERANE SAID.

5. PRESS SAID THAT VAN ONSELEN REMAINED "IMPASSIVE"
THROUGHOUT THE NINE-HOUR MEETING. OFFICIAL STATEMENT
SAID THAT HE HAD ASSURED DELEGATES THAT THE MATTERS THEY
HAD RAISED WOULD RECEIVE HIS ATTENTION.
BOWDLER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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